



WELCOME

HOWARD COUNTY TOURISM NEWS

Rachelina Bonacci, Executive Director, Howard County Tourism
410-313-1900, rachelina@visithowardcounty.com

Ellicott City's Ghosts DOUBLE DARE You!

Tourism announces long-awaited, highly-anticipated Part II to popular Ghost Tour

Ellicott City, MD (September 17, 2007) – Are you one of the very brave souls that survived the *Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City* Ghost Tour, now in its fourth season? If you are, you'll surely attest that charming Ellicott City is perhaps the most actively haunted town in America. By popular demand, Howard County Tourism announces the long-awaited and highly-anticipated Part II to its popular Ghost Tour. Again, retailers, restaurateurs and residents have all volunteered their NEW recent eye-witness accounts of paranormal activity for the Part II Ghost Tour! Ghost Tour Specialists and guests have had unusual, unexplainable experiences during the tours and captured orbs and mysterious shadows on digital cameras.

Howard County Tourism enlisted the help of three of its trusted Ghost Tour Specialists to create Part II of the *Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City* Ghost Tour. Retired Howard County Police Officer Marty Schoppert interviewed persons in Ellicott City about their encounters with unexplained phenomena. Local poet, writer and performance artist Linda Joy Burke authored the new script and facilitated training classes for the dozen other Ghost Tour Specialists. And Anthony Hoos, a local college mass media instructor, contributed to the script content with his insights into the science of possible hauntings.

Part II of *Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City* Ghost Tour includes fifteen (15) new stories of reported apparitions and poltergeists throughout the town. Stories were provided by very credible firefighters, shopkeepers, residents, historians and even the chief curator of the B&O Railroad Museum: Ellicott City Station! Ghost guests will certainly enjoy learning the history of Ellicott City –the destination of the first thirteen miles of railroad, beginnings of the first federally funded highway, its entrepreneurial women and its place in history as the home of the longest operating grist mill -- all told with a paranormal twist!

WHO: Howard County Tourism
WHAT: "Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City" Ghost Tours (April – November)
WHY: NOW OFFERING PART I and ALL NEW PART II (public debut 9/29/07)
WHEN: Every Friday & Saturday Night 8:30P.M.
WHERE: Visitor Information Center, 8267 Main Street, Historic Ellicott City
HOW: \$10 Adults, \$8 Kids & Seniors, Call 410-313-1900 or
ghosts@visithowardcounty.com to make your reservation
WOW: The Crab Shanty in Ellicott City offers a discount to ghost tour survivors

Howard County, Maryland was recently named one of the Best Places to Live by MONEY magazine and *The Washingtonian*, perhaps it's a place so nice you NEVER, EVER leave! Or perhaps Ellicott City with its history of tragic fires, devastating floods, awful industrial accidents and role in the Civil War make it a place where its past residents still remain and roam. The ghost stories told are based on real people that actually lived and died in Ellicott City—sometimes violently and unexpectedly—to lend veracity to the REAL hauntings! And now Ellicott City's permanent residents double dare YOU!

GHOST TOUR FACT SHEET

***Meet the Ghosts of the “YE HAUNTED HISTORY OF OLDE ELLICOTT CITY”
GHOST TOURS, Part II”:***

- **Louisa:** name given to the female entity that is reported to haunt the Tourism office, the former site of Hillsinger Funeral Home, witnessed by employees and tourists
- **Mary:** many believe the ghost of the Judge's Bench is the love struck daughter of the owners of the original Berger's Grocery store, who hung herself in the store after being forbidden to see her Ellicott City sweetheart
- **Tom or Thomas:** So terrified a local historian with his unusual presence that she leapt from her bathtub with fright in her apartment that was once the Thomas McGowan Hotel
- **Charlie:** name given to box-moving and stair-climbing ghost of the B&O Railroad Museum: Ellicott City Station
- **Bernice “The Duchess of Main Street”:** the recently deceased and beloved wife of Walter of Gramps Books, whose unique signature perfume still welcomes customers and friends
- **Unnamed Male Ghost:** From a stone house in Historic District comes the story of heavy footsteps on wooden stairs ascending to the attic where enslaved persons once lived and slept
- **Unnamed Young Boy:** In the current home of Wessel's Florist (previously Su Casa), many witness the mischievous moving of items and mysterious handprints of perhaps the ghost of a young boy identified in a 2003 spiritual cleansing
- **Unnamed Ghost:** At Cacao Lane, many employees witness the moving of a heavy mirror by unseen hands and report a feeling of foreboding near a locked door of second floor
- **“Quaker Oats Man”:** At an undisclosed antique store in Ellicott City, merchants report apparition dressed like the “Quaker Oats Man” with his heavy wooden wheelcart and warn never to make eye contact with the ghost
- **Stowaways:** ghosts hitch a ride home in a retro car and haunt the car much to the alarm and concern of residents in an otherwise quiet Columbia village
- **Al:** At The Well (formerly Al's Garage), original owner Al died of a massive heart attack on site; the ghost(s) seem to enjoy tickling the feet of yoga students and cast shadows on the walls
- **Dennis:** name given to the ghost that actively haunted the upstairs Howard House apartment of a NASA scientist and her cat Max
- **Mr. Harry:** ghost of Station 2. Retired Fire Administrator B. Harrison Shipley, Jr. said, “That would be my father. Whenever things disappeared or the volunteers

and paid firefighters heard odd noises, they'd blame it on "Mr. Harry." B. Harrison Shipley served as fire chief from 1935 to 1957.

- **The Union Soldier:** appears on two reported occasions when Civil War re-enactments take place on B&O Plaza

List of Haunted Shops and Stops:

- Howard County Tourism / Post Office
- La Palapa Mexican Grill & Cantina
- Judge's Bench
- Thomas Isaac Log Cabin / Historic National Road marker
- Gramp's Books
- Firehouse Museum (stories from Station 2)
- Wessel's Florists
- Cacao Lane
- B&O Railroad Museum: Ellicott City Station
- Tiber Alley
- Caplan's
- The Well
- Howard House Apartments

Why is Ellicott City so haunted?

Why is Ellicott City one of the most actively haunted places on the East Coast? Well, our town has certainly seen its share of death since the Ellicott's incorporated it in 1771. Death by accidents, floods, fire, carelessness, natural causes, illness, suicide and murder - each of these scenarios has played out here. Many have lived and died within close proximity to their earthly habitat. But remember, just because a building's haunted doesn't mean that the person died there specifically. Spirits wander and relocate, choosing buildings seemingly at random. There was never a shooting or death in the Patapsco Valley Bank, yet three spirits have chosen to haunt... and remain in that building.

Spiritual energy somehow 'pockets' in our town. Geographically, Ellicott City is built on a bed of granite and granite composite... mediums will agree that this feature alone attracts and channels spiritual energy. As you look around notice that many of the original buildings were built using rock that was blasted and carved from the bedrock they're built on. Paranormal investigators have also offered several other reasons for the plethora of spiritual energy: electricity, water and antiques. The many transformers and thick electrical cables over town, and the Tiber River, which flows directly beneath many of the buildings on the west side of town and empties into the Patapsco river at the bottom of the hill encourage the spirits to stay. If the combination of electricity and the power of water alone is not enough to attract and hold spirits, then many are said to have arrived here piggybacking the personal effects they once owned during life, and with which they have yet to part.

Our town contains several antique stores. Paranormal experts agree that sometimes a spirit will remain with a personal item until departing for the light, such as a ring, a dress, a picture or a piece of furniture. Often, spiritual cleansers, or those seeking to direct spirits on a path away from the living, will try and identify the source of negative energy and find it in an item on a shelf, or exhibited on a mantle. Once the object is removed, or cleansed, and the entity has been released, there should be a noticeable difference.

There are no guarantees that the item will remain free however, some of the buildings here in our town once cleansed, days or months afterwards the tenants speak of the same spirits returning, over and over.

BIOs

Bio for Linda Joy Burke, author of script

Linda Joy Burke is a poet, writer, workshop facilitator and performance artist. She is a 2002 Distinguished Black Marylander Award recipient for Art from Towson University's Office of Diversity a 2004 Coca Cola Company/NFAA Distinguished Teacher in the Arts nominee, and a 2004 *Poetry for the People Baltimore Legacy Award* recipient. She has published poetry, fiction, op-ed columns, reviews, profiles and feature stories in newspapers, literary publications, journals, books and anthologies including: *The Little Patuxent Review*, *Obsidian II Black Literature in Review*, *Beltway: An On-Line Quarterly*, *Healing Design*; *Practical Feng Shui for Gracious Living*. She is a member of the 1st generation "Diva Squad Poetry Collective," founded by Chezia Thompson - Cager, and her work is featured as part of the poetry anthology *When Divas Laugh*. She is co-editor with Jaki Edens, of the poetry collection; *Conversing with Dragons: Celebrating the Life and Art of Robyn Weiss*, and editor of "*Mom Let's Talk, Poetry by Robert Schaeberle, Memoir by Jeanne Schaeberle*. Her blogs *The Bird Talks Blog; Poetry, Photography, Creative Non-fiction and Cultural Commentary*. can be found at, <http://journals.aol.com/ljoybird/birdtalks/> and *Bird Talks Too* at www.LindaJoyBurke.Blogspot.com.

Bio for Marty Schoppert, researcher for script

Martin (Marty) Schoppert retired from the Howard County Police Department in 1996 after twenty six years of service. Eight of these years were spent in the Mobile Crime Lab Identification section. Since retirement he has worked in the security field and has been the Coordinator of Campus Safety and Security for the Carroll Community College in Westminster, Maryland for the past five years. He has also served in the US Army and the US Army Reserve in various units and occupational specialties for twenty six years. Marty has been involved in local armature theater appearing in six plays and has done living history interpenetration as a US Park Service volunteer at Fort McHenry, Fort Washington, Harper's Ferry, and the national battlefields at Antietam and Gettysburg. He also appeared on the premiere show of America's Most Wanted as well as several local crime stopper TV spots. His interests include the study of history, art, the Old West, Ancient Rome, and Rodeo. He lives in Carroll County.

Bio for Anthony Hoos, researcher for script

Anthony is in his third year as a tour guide and the spirits must love him because you're almost guaranteed to experience the Ellicott City after-life on one of his tours. Speaking personally, Anthony says that "My goal is to create an open environment for spirits to present themselves." His mother has always been a believer in the paranormal, and from an early age instilled an interest and belief that has taken him in search of spiritual activity in places like Salem, the Winchester Mansion, the Lemp Mansion, Gettysburg and the Cohokia Mounds in Illinois. Known as a Jack of all Trades, Anthony spends his weekdays as a Programmer/Engineer for an Emmy Award-winning educational access channel and has been teaching broadcasting, media savvy and television production at the collegiate level for the past four years. He is also enjoys amateur archeology and the occasional 8,000 meter peak hike.

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions About Ellicott City Ghost Tours

Who?

Ghost Guests

What?

Tourism's very popular "Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City" Ghost Tours in its 4th season and now all new Part II tour with 15 recently researched stories!

Why?

Over 6,000 ghost guests discovered, shopped & dined in Ellicott City annually

Where?

Howard County Tourism Visitor Information Center
8267 Main Street, Side Entrance of Old Post Office, Historic Ellicott City, MD 21043

When?

Every Friday & Saturday Night at 8:30AM
April – November (Multiple Tours & Times in October)
Special Friday the 13th and Full Moon tours available
Private tours may also be available for any day & time for groups of 15 or more

How Do I Make A Reservation (Strongly Recommended)?

410-313-1900 or ghosts@visithowardcounty.com

How Much?

\$10 Adults, \$8 Kids (over 12yrs) & Seniors (over 65) and active military

Ghost Guests:

Not recommended for kids under 6 due to tour content and length of walking tour. Ghost guests are cautioned to wear shoes suitable for walking on uneven bricked / cobblestone sidewalks and climbing some stone stairs for 60-90 minutes. For comfort of the other ghost guests, we ask that all guests refrain from smoking and turn cellphones on vibrate. Guests are welcomes to photograph haunted places, however video filming and/or audio recording of the tour is prohibited. All ghost guest tour survivors receive 15% off their next dinner at The Crab Shanty, Sunday – Thursday.

Brief Tour Description:

The ghosts of Olde Ellicott City double dare you to wander the streets and cobblestone alleys of their favorite haunts! Come follow our spirited guides as they try to explain ...the unexplained! Includes recent eye-witness accounts of paranormal activity & poltergeists!

Ghost Tour Specialists:

Howard County Tourism employs over a dozen Ghost Tour Specialists who are school teachers, realtors, retired police officers, PTA moms, artists, students and construction workers by day and Ghost Tour Specialists by night. Our talented Ghost Tour Specialists captivate an audience of 25-25 ghost guests without any special effects except their story-telling and eccentric attire. Ghost Tour Specialists are permitted to accept gratuities if you enjoyed your tour, and tips are much appreciated!

Stops On Tours, The Original and all new Part II:

Whats IN Store
La Palapa Mexican Grill
Bean Hollow
Tiber River Tavern
The Well
Jordan's Steakhouse
Forget-Me-Not Factory
Ellicott Mills Brewing Co.
envy.salon
Tea on the Tiber
Wagon Wheel
The Phoenix
Odd Fellows Lodge
Wessel's Florist
Attic Antiques & Things
Judge's Bench
Thomas Isaac Log Cabin
Gramps Books
Firehouse Museum
Cacao Lane
B&O Railroad Museum: Ellicott City Station
Tiber Alley
Caplan's
Howard House Apartments
Rock, Ellicott's Country Store
Tourism / Post Office

BACKGROUND *More Information on Historic Ellicott City*

Destination Ellicott City

Ellicott City, founded in 1772 by three Quaker brothers, is in the midst of a renaissance and is becoming a must-see destination while in the mid-Atlantic. Ellicott City's three-block historic district along Main Street is lined with over fifty shopping and dining destinations. In Ellicott City we have everything your heart and home could desire: scrumptious restaurants, trendy brew pub, friendly wine bar, soothing day spas, pet boutiques, chic antiques and upscale home décor stores. Ellicott City is also home to the oldest railroad terminus in the US, the oldest operating flour mill in the United States, and the earliest part of the Historic National Road (the nation's first federally-funded highway). Recently "discovered" by *The New York Times*' Friday Escapes, Ellicott City has become a media darling often featured as a wonderful weekend getaway and even broadcast internationally during the MISS USA 2005 telecast. Nestled in the scenic hills above the Patapsco River, surrounded by charming steeples, fabulous Colonial, Federal, Victorian and even Art Deco architecture, Ellicott City tempts visitors to escape to centuries ago all within an hours drive of Baltimore and Washington, DC.

Ellicott City National Recognition

2008 –Top 5 Best Weekend Escape, Washington Post

2008 –America's Best Places to Live, Columbia / Ellicott City, Money magazine

2007 Top 20 Best Places to Raise a Family, Forbes magazine

2006 --America's Best Places to Live 2006, Columbia / Ellicott City Money magazine

2006 –Top Fall Weekend Destination Washingtonian magazine Ellicott City

2005 –International broadcast MISS USA 2005 from historic Ellicott City
2003 --The New York Times “HAVENS; Finding New Life By Selling the Old” Friday
Escapes feature story on Historic Ellicott City
2003 --Southern Living magazine feature story "Detour to Historic Ellicott City"

The Ellicott Brothers (background, history)

In 1772, the Quaker brothers, John, Andrew and Joseph Ellicott of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, chose the picturesque wilderness upstream from Elk Ridge Landing to establish a flour mill. The brothers helped revolutionize farming in this area by persuading farmers to plant wheat instead of tobacco, and by introducing fertilizer to revitalize the depleted soil. Charles Carroll was one of the first and the most influential converts from tobacco to wheat. It was to Carroll's estate that the Ellicott brothers built the first part of a road that was later to become the National Road, America's first interstate highway.

The Ellicotts made significant contributions to the area and the era. They helped create Ellicott's Mills, one of the greatest milling and manufacturing towns in the east at that time. They built roads, bridges and a wharf in Baltimore, introduced the wagon brake and championed plaster as a fertilizer, erected iron works, a furnace, rolling mills, schools, a meeting house, shops and beautiful granite houses.

In 1791, Andrew Ellicott was commissioned to survey the boundaries for the nation's new capital, Washington, D. C. Benjamin Banneker, an African American scientist and friend of the family, joined him in his work. Banneker maintained notes for Ellicott, made calculations as required and used astronomical instruments to establish base survey points.